

ATTACHMENT A

Claims

1. (original) An axial fan in which an impeller (1) comprises a hub (2), motor-powered so that it rotates about its own central axis (3) in a predetermined direction of rotation (V), and a plurality of blades (5) extending from the  
5 hub (2) in directions transversal to the axis (3); the hub (2) having a cup shape and being formed by a bottom wall (6) and a ring-shaped side wall (7); the bottom wall (6) having a plurality of long ribs (20) arranged in a radial direction and extending in height towards the hub (2) cavity, each of the  
10 ribs (20) abutting on an internal face of the ring-shaped side wall (7) and delimiting, together with said ring-shaped side wall (7), a corner area of the bottom wall (6) positioned in front of the rib (20) with reference to the direction of rotation (V); the fan being characterised in that each corner  
15 area has a through-hole (9) for discharging any debris, in particular water, sand, soil or sludge, from the hub (2) cavity to the outside of the hub (2).

2. (original) The fan according to claim 1, characterised in  
20 that the through-holes (9) are evenly distributed along a circle centred on the axis (3) and close to the ring-shaped side wall (7).

3. (currently amended) The fan according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,  
25 characterised in that the through-holes (9) have a substantially triangular prismatic shape.

4. (currently amended) The fan according to ~~any of the foregoing claims,~~ claim 1, characterised in that in each of  
30 the said corner areas a through-hole (9) is delimited by at least three walls (10 - 15), of which a first wall (10) substantially acts as an extension of the ring-shaped side wall (7).

5. (currently amended) The fan according to ~~any of the~~  
35 ~~foregoing claims,~~ claim 1, characterised in that in each  
corner area a through-hole (9) is delimited by at least three  
walls (10 - 15), of which a second wall (11) substantially  
acts as an extension of the rib (20).

40 6. (currently amended) The fan according to ~~any of the~~  
~~foregoing claims,~~ claim 1, characterised in that, with  
reference to the direction of the axis (3) and to the  
direction of rotation (V) of the hub (2), each through-hole  
(9) is delimited by at least three walls (10 - 15), of which a  
45 first flat external wall (10) lies in a plane at a right angle  
to a radial direction and to the bottom wall (6).

7. (currently amended) The fan according to ~~any of the~~  
~~foregoing claims,~~ claim 1, characterised in that, with  
50 reference to the direction of the axis (3) and to the  
direction of rotation (V) of the hub (2), each through-hole  
(9) is delimited by at least three walls (10 - 15), of which a  
second flat rear wall (11) lies in a plane parallel with a  
radial direction and is angled backwards by a predetermined  
55 angle ( $\alpha$ ) relative to the direction of the axis (3).

8. (currently amended) The fan according to ~~any of the~~  
~~foregoing claims,~~ claim 1, characterised in that, with  
reference to the direction of the axis (3) and to the  
60 direction of rotation (V) of the hub (2), each through-hole  
(9) is delimited by at least three walls (10 - 15), of which a  
third flat internal wall (12) lies in an oblique plane  
relative to a radial direction and at a right angle to the  
bottom wall (6).

65 9. (currently amended) The fan according to ~~any of the claims~~  
~~from 6 to 8,~~ claim 6, characterised in that, with reference to  
the direction of the axis (3) and to the direction of rotation  
(V) of the hub (2), the first and second walls (10, 11)  
70 converge towards a rear, external curved vertex wall (13); the  
second and third walls (11, 12) converge towards a rear,  
internal curved vertex wall (14); and the first and third  
walls (10, 12) converge towards a front curved vertex wall  
(15).

10. (currently amended) The fan according to ~~any of the claims from 7 to 9,~~ claim 7, characterised in that the predetermined angle ( $\alpha$ ) is between  $30^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$ .

80 11. (original) The fan according to claim 10, characterised in that the predetermined angle ( $\alpha$ ) is equal to  $45^\circ$ .